AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A videoconferencing system comprising:

a conference bridge for interconnecting a plurality of remotely located videoconferencing stations; and

a speaker identification subsystem to determine ~~means for determining~~ whether a conferee is speaking based, at least in part, on whether visual lip movements of said conferee are reasonably consistent with an audio signal from a conference station in which said conferee is located, the subsystem also to determine which of the conferees is speaking the loudest when multiple conferees are speaking simultaneously.

6. (Currently Amended) The videoconference system of claim 5 wherein ~~said means for determining whether said conferee is speaking~~ the speaker identification subsystem comprises a voice activity detector.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The videoconference system of claim 6 wherein said voice activity detector includes image analysis and recognition software.

10. (Currently Amended) The videoconference system of claim 29 wherein said means for visually altering said image comprises means for highlighting a border around said image of said conferee determined to be ~~speaking~~ the loudest speaker.

11. (Currently Amended) A videoconference station comprising:

a transmitter to transmit a combined audio video signal to a videoconference bridge; and

~~means for determining whether a conferee~~ a speaker identification subsystem located at said videoconference station to determine whether the conferee at said videoconference station is speaking by analyzing whether visual lip movements of said conferee are substantially consistent with an audio signal at said station so as to indicate human speech, the subsystem also to determine which of the conferees is the loudest speaker when multiple conferees are speaking simultaneously.

12. (Currently Amended) The videoconference station of claim 11 wherein said ~~means for determining whether said conferee is speaking is~~ speaker identification subsystem comprises a voice activity detector.

13. (Previously Presented) The videoconference system of claim 12 wherein said voice activity detector includes image analysis and recognition software.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of displaying images of a plurality of conferees in a videoconference system, comprising:

determining whether a conferee is speaking by analyzing a consistency between visual lip movements of said conferee and an audio signal from a conference station in which said conferee is located such that the combination of lip movement and audio signal indicates human speech;

determining which of the conferees is the loudest speaker when multiple conferees are speaking simultaneously; and

visually altering an image of said conferee that is displayed to other conferees when said conferee is determined to be ~~speaking~~ the loudest speaker.

15-18. (Canceled)

19. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying which conferee in a video conference is speaking comprising:

detecting a first audio signal associated with a first conferee;

detecting a second audio signal associated with a second conferee;

comparing the first detected audio signal with the second detected audio signal to determine which detected audio signal is louder; and

providing an indication to the first conferee and the second conferee of which detected audio signal is louder.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein providing an indication to the first conferee and the second conferee of which detected audio signal is louder comprises:

altering an image of either the first conferee or the second conferee based, at least in part, on which detected audio signal is determined to be louder.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein altering the image of either the first conferee or the second conferee based, at least in part, on which detected audio signal is determined to be louder comprises:

highlighting a border around the image of either the first conferee or the second conferee based, at least in part, on which received audio signal is determined to be louder.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein providing an indication to the first conferee and the second conferee of which detected audio signal is louder comprises:

providing textual information to the first conferee and the second conferee indicating which detected audio signal is determined to be louder.

23-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The videoconferencing system of claim 5, further comprising:

means for visually altering an image of said conferee displayed in other conference stations if said conferee is determined to be ~~speaking~~ the loudest speaker of the plurality of conferees.

30. (New) A videoconferencing system comprising:

a speaker identification subsystem located at each of a plurality of remotely located videoconferencing stations, the subsystem to determine whether a conferee is speaking based, at least in part, on whether visual lip movements of the conferee are reasonably consistent with an audio signal from a conference station in which the conferee is located, and also to determine which of the conferees is speaking the loudest when multiple conferees are speaking simultaneously; and

a conference bridge coupled to each of the videoconferencing stations to visually alter an image of a conferee who is speaking before combining the image with images received from each of the other videoconferencing stations and transmitting a combined image back to each of the videoconferencing stations.

31. (New) A method for identifying which conferee in a video conference is speaking comprising:

detecting a first audio signal associated with a first conferee;

detecting a second audio signal associated with a second conferee;

comparing the first detected audio signal with the second detected audio signal to determine which detected audio signal is louder; and

providing an indication to the first conferee and the second conferee of which detected audio signal is louder.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein providing an indication to the first conferee and the second conferee of which detected audio signal is louder comprises:

altering an image of either the first conferee or the second conferee based, at least in part, on which detected audio signal is determined to be louder.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein altering the image of either the first conferee or the second conferee based, at least in part, on which detected audio signal is determined to be louder comprises:

highlighting a border around the image of either the first conferee or the second conferee based, at least in part, on which received audio signal is determined to be louder.

34. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein providing an indication to the first conferee and the second conferee of which detected audio signal is louder comprises:

providing textual information to the first conferee and the second conferee indicating which detected audio signal is determined to be louder.